1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

Many officials were implicated in the corruption cases. In the Bureau of Taxation at Wuhan, about 200 civil servants were found guilty of corruption during a mass meeting soon after the start of the campaign.[26] High officials, incluing Pu Sheng-kuang (Chief Procurator of the Central-South Branch of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, concurrently chief of the Department of Public Security for this region), was exposed and ordered to resign.[27] Ch'ien I-min, deputy to Pu, was similarly removed from office. Wu Te-feng, mayor of Wuhan, was accused of dereliction of duty. The embezzlement of billions of yüan ended the public career of the chief of the Non-ferrous Metal Administrative Bureau, who was concurrently the deputy chief of the Department of Industry of this region. Even agencies having little to do with finance and economy were not free from corruption; Liu Hung, deputy chief of the Propaganda Department in the Kwangsi provincial branch of the Communist Party, was accused of embezzling sixty million yüan (US$3,000) from public funds.

While the Three-Anti Campaign was aimed at government and party officials, the Five-Anti Campaign, instituted a few weeks later, had business and industry as its main object of attack and sough to eliminate bribery, tax evasion, theft of government property, cheating on government contracts, and theft of economic information for private speculation.[28]

26. Ibid., January 14, 1952, p. 1.
27. Ibid., March 9, 1952, p. 3.
28. For a record of these two movements in Central-South, see Li Hsüeh-feng's report in Yangtze Daily, September 29, 1952, p. 1.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

662 687

Businessmen accused of being criminal during the Five-Anti Campaign were severely punished. Ts'ui Ming-ch'ing, division chief of a state-operated department store, was tried for embezzling sixteen billion yüan (US$900,000).[29] Because his accomplice, T'eng Chen-lu, was a merchant, the case was cited by the Communists as an example of how a government official could be led astray by an unscrupulous businessman. A similar case involved Ho Heng-fu, chairman of the Wuhan Industrial and Business Association and a high-ranking government official, who was accused of conspiring to smuggle gold, foreign notes, and strategic materials. He was tried and sentenced to death.[30]

661 687

Although the Three-Anti and Five-Anti campaigns were launched separately, their aims and results were the same in many aspects. Since Party members were, in most cases, administrative officers, the impact of the campaigns upon the Party and upon its administrative agencies was equally great; since state-operated enterprises and administrative agencies were imbued with private enterprise, attacks on businessmen affected administrators and Party members. The intensity of these campaigns should not be underestimated. The repercussion engendered by the Three-Anti and Five-Anti campaigns were in every way comparable to those of other major "suppression" campaigns launched betwen 1950 and 1952.

661 662 687

B. Subsequent Measures (1953-55)

There were indications that corruption and other activities detrimental to the regime did not cease at the conclusion of the Three-Anti and Five-Anti campaigns in May 1952. According to an incomplete set of figures compiled by the Ministry of Commerce

29. Yangtze Daily, January 19, 1952, p. 1.
30. Yangtze Daily, April 10, 1952, p. 1.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

of the State Council, 1,268 corruption cases involving 1,826 people were prosecuted during the first six months of 1954.[31] The 1955 Supervisory Conference devoted a great deal of attention to a study of this issue.[32] A flood of reports on corruption and waste appeared in the Communist press. One of the most serious cases involved the Mining and Geological School in Changsha, Hunan Province, which was accused of misuse of government rations. The school was reported to have wasted rice rations and falsified personnel statements in an effort to obtain more government rations.[33]

All of these reports indicate that, despite persistent efforts to eradicate corruption, abuses both in and outside the government continue to occur.

III. TENSION AND DISCONTENT

Extreme centralization and control of governmental, economic, and social activities logically lead to discontent and tension. If not checked in time, these undercurrents of public dissatisfaction may create a real threat to the government.

A. Public Discontent

1. Restrictions on Private Life

In Central-South China, as in all other regions of China, the individual citizen cannot choose how his day is spent; a fixed schedule has been imposed on him. After his working hours, the peasant, for

31. Ta-kung Pao, Tientsin, Mar. 24, 1955, p. 1.

32. For report on conference, see Kuang-ming Jih-pao [Enlightenment Daily], Peking, June 13, 1955, p. 1.

33. Ta-kung Pao, Tientsin, Mar. 16, 1955, p. 1.